

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The battery according to claim [[1]] 13, wherein the battery can consists of aluminum or aluminum alloy, the negative electrode terminal consists of a material selected from the group consisting of iron, nickel coated iron, nickel, copper, nickel coated copper and stainless steel, and the surface of the negative electrode terminal has a coating layer of the aluminum or aluminum alloy of which the battery can is made.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The battery according to claim [[1]] 13, wherein the battery can consists of a material selected from the group consisting of iron, nickel plated iron, nickel, copper, nickel plated copper and stainless steel, and the positive electrode terminal consists of aluminum or aluminum alloy, and the surface of the positive electrode terminal has a coating layer of

the iron, nickel plated iron, nickel, copper, nickel plated copper or stainless steel of which the battery can is made.

6. (cancel)

7. (currently amended) A combination of at least two batteries connected in series in which each battery is the same and comprises an electrode unit which is a power generation element housed in a battery can, and in which electricity can be taken out from a pair of negative and positive electrode terminals which are exposed outside the can, wherein a coating layer consisting of the same material of which one of the negative and positive electrode terminals is made is formed on a surface of the other of the negative and positive electrode terminals, and further wherein the at least two batteries connected in series are connected so that the negative electrode terminal of one battery directly contacts the positive electrode terminal of the other battery.

8. (previously presented) The combination of at least two batteries according to claim 7, wherein the battery can of each battery consists of aluminum or an aluminum alloy, the negative electrode terminal consists of a material selected from the group

consisting of iron, nickel coated iron, nickel, copper, nickel coated copper and stainless steel, and the surface of the negative electrode terminal has a coating layer of the aluminum or aluminum alloy of which the battery can is made.

9. (previously presented) The combination of at least two batteries according to claim 7, wherein the battery can of each battery consists of a material selected from the group consisting of iron, nickel plated iron, nickel, copper, nickel plated copper and stainless steel, and the positive electrode terminal consists of aluminum or aluminum alloy, and the surface of the positive electrode terminal has a coating layer of the iron, nickel plated iron, nickel, copper, nickel plated copper or stainless steel of which the battery can is made.

10. (currently amended) The ~~battery~~ combination of at least two batteries according to claim 7, wherein the coating layer is formed by a cladding connection or plating on the surface of said other electrode terminal.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) A battery comprising an electrode unit which is a power generation element housed in a cylindrical battery can, and in which electricity can be taken out from a pair of negative and positive electrode terminals which are exposed outside the can, wherein a coating layer consisting of the same material of which one of the negative and positive electrode terminals is made is formed on a surface of the other of the negative and positive electrode terminals and the coating layer is formed by a cladding connection or plating on the surface of said other electrode terminal.

14. (new) The combination of at least two batteries according to claim 7, wherein the battery can is cylindrical.